

Instructions for all buyers and sellers Of Wares made of Gold and Silver.

By a Statute made in the 29th of *Edward* the First.



E is ordain'd, That no Goldsmith of England, nor none other where within the Kings Dominion, shall from henceforth make, or cause to be made any manner of Vessel, Jewel, or any other thing of Gold or Silver, except it be of good and true Allay; That is to say, Gold of a certain Touch, and Silver of the Sterling Allay, or of better, at the pleasure of him to whom the work belongeth; and that none work worse Silver than Money, and that no manner of Vessel of Silver depart out of the hands of the workers, until it be Assayed by the Wardens of the Craft; and further that it be marked with the Leopards-head, and that the Wardens of the Craft shall go from Shop to Shop among the Goldsmiths to Assay if their Gold be of the same Touch that is spoken of before, and if they find any other than of the Touch aforesaid, the Gold shall be forfeit to the King; And if any Goldsmith be Attainted hereafter, because that he hath done otherwise than before is Ordained, he shall be punished by Imprisonment, and by Ransom at the Kings pleasure.

By a Statute made in the Second year of *Henry* the Sixth.

Item, That no Goldsmith or worker of Silver within the City of London, sell any workmanship of Silver, unless it be as fine as the Sterling, except the same needs Soother in the making, which shall be allowed according as the Soother is necessary to be wrought in the same: And that no Goldsmith nor Jeweller, nor any other that worketh harness of Silver, shall let any of the same to sell within the City, before that it be Touched with the Touch, and also with the mark or sign of the workman of the same, upon pain of forfeiture of the Double as afore is said, and that the Mark and Sign of every Goldsmith be known to the Wardens of the Craft.

By a Statute made in the 18th of *Eliz.* Intituled,
An Act for Reformation of Abuses in Goldsmiths.

Where certain evil disposed Goldsmiths, have made and sell Plate, and other Gold and Silver Wares to the great defrauding of Her Majesty and her good Subjects, for Remedy whereof be it Enacted by the Authority of this present Parliament, That the Goldsmiths from the 20th day of April next coming, shall work, sell, exchange, or cause to be wrought, sold, or exchanged, any Plate or other Goldsmiths Ware of Gold, less in fineness than that of 22. Carats, and that they use no Soother, Amalgam, or other mixings whatsoever in any of their works more than is necessary for the finishing of the same, and that from the said 20th day of April no Goldsmith shall make, sell or exchange in any place within this Realm, any Plate or Goldsmiths Wares of Silver, less in fineness than that of Eleven ounces two penny weight, nor put to sale, exchange or sell any Plate or Goldsmiths work of Silver before he hath set his own Mark to so much thereof as conveniently may bear the same, upon pain to forfeit the value of the thing so sold or exchanged, and if any Goldsmith shall make any Goldsmiths Work or Plate, and the same after the said 20th day of April shall be Touched, Marked and allowed for good, by the Wardens or Masters of that Mystery, and if in the same there shall be found any Falshood or Deceit, then the Wardens and Corporation of the Mystery for the time being, shall forfeit and pay the value of the thing so exchanged or sold.

The Wardens of the Company of Goldsmiths in Obedience to the Statutes above, and in order to discharge that great Trust reposed in them; have used their utmost diligence and care for the detecting of those evil disposed Goldsmiths whom no Law, no Oath, nor any tye of Conscience can prevail with, to forsake that great and enormous Cheat of making and selling Wares of Gold worse than Standard, and of Silver worse than Sterling; And these without either having their own Mark, or the Mark of the Hall struck upon them. But the Wardens find that their care will not have that Effect they could wish; unless all Gentlemen and other Persons that shall have occasion to buy any Wares of Gold or Silver, shall lend their helping hand to this Reformation, by forbearing to buy any Wares either of Gold or Silver, not having struck thereon the *Lyon* and *Leopards-head* Crowns: And then they do not doubt but to put an end to this great and growing Mischief, by which the Gold and Silver Wares in this Nation have not been Cheated less than Sixty thousand Pounds per

5 years last past.

Printed by Order of the Wardens of the Worshipful
Company of Goldsmiths, London.